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September 20, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Medical Director

SUBJECT: **BIOTERRORISM ACTION PLAN MONTHLY STATUS REPORT**

As requested by your Board, this is the monthly status report on activities related to the bioterrorism action plan.

All of the Federal grants, HRSA, CDC and MMRS grants, require regional planning and coordination as a major component of the County's grant objectives. The Public Health Division and the EMS Agency will be conducting the first Regional Bioterrorism Planning Meeting on September 25, 2002. This will be the first planning meeting associated with Bioterrorism in the State. The purpose of this meeting is to begin developing a regional plan with neighboring counties. In addition to Region 1 counties, Region 6 counties, as well as Kern County representatives, have been invited in order to fully incorporate the Southern California Administrative Region and all surrounding counties in the development process. Particular areas of interest include the following: 1) National Pharmaceutical Stockpile planning; 2) authorities of the Health Officer; and 3) activities associated with the CDC grant, including laboratory capabilities, as well as surveillance and reporting activities.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Funds—\$3.6 million

A Board letter requesting acceptance of the HRSA funds was approved by your Board on September 3. Subsequent to receiving approval of the funds, Letters of Interest have been mailed to hospital CEOs. Hospitals that wish to participate in the Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program and receive funding for their activities must respond by September 30, 2002. Four regional meetings are being conducted to provide a venue for educating hospital personnel regarding participation and to answer any of their questions.

Draft agreements for these 9-1-1 receiving hospitals wanting to participate in the HRSA project will be forwarded to your Board for approval in October.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Funds—\$24.6 million

On August 15, 2002, the Department held the first quarterly meeting of the CDC Bioterrorism Advisory Committee. Several topics were raised by the committee members, including but not limited to: 1) clarification on the Health Officer's authorities in a health emergency/disaster; 2) participation of the Native American communities in the planning process; and 3) expectations of law enforcement in the event the Health Officer were to issue a quarantine in a health emergency. These issues will be clarified at the next meeting on November 13, 2002.

Positions for the bioterrorism grant have been allocated by the Department of Human Resources and approved by the CAO. Department managers are interviewing and selecting staff to fulfill grant requirements.

As requested, your Board will continue to be provided with monthly updates on these grants and terrorism preparedness activities. The Department continues to work with the CAO to ensure that grant funding is properly obtained and maximized. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TLG:vph
203:006 and C/R 111:005

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director, EMS Agency
Director of Public Health
Fiscal Management